



**For immediate release  
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## **‘PARK SERVE DAY’ CALLS HUNDREDS OF VOLUNTEERS TO PARTICIPATE IN CLEAN-UPS ACROSS THE COMMONWEALTH**

The Department of Conservation and Recreation’s (DCR) second annual Park Serve Day will be held on Saturday, May 17, in state parks and beaches across the Commonwealth. Hundreds of volunteers already have signed up to participate in more than 50 projects, such as picking up litter along ocean beaches, clearing debris from hiking trails, and planting flowers at picnic areas.

Last year, 1,330 volunteers participated in a variety of volunteer activities at 51 parks, beaches, and forests across the state. A total of 4,655 man-hours of effort resulted in the planting of 580 trees and flowers and the hauling away of 48.6 tons of trash. This overwhelming response shows how Massachusetts residents value their state parks and are willing to join in the shared stewardship of these important natural, cultural, and recreational resources

“Parks, beaches, and forests are the jewels of the Commonwealth, and they belong to all of us,” said Governor Deval Patrick. “I am thrilled that so many of our citizens are taking ownership of these treasures and are ready to pitch in and help get them ready for spring.”

Park Serve Day is intended to supplement unprecedented efforts by DCR to improve conditions at these facilities for the coming season. These efforts include improving curb appeal of the parks and hiring contractors to help with mowing, cleaning, and weed control; testing new trash barrel covers at several beaches to prevent garbage spilling and gull scavenging; and developing public maintenance schedules for each park, beach, and parkway that will include tasks such as mowing, weeding, picking up litter, cleaning the beaches and restrooms, and inspecting playgrounds.

“The professionals at DCR have an ambitious plan for getting our parks shipshape this spring, and they need our help,” said Secretary of Energy and Environmental Affairs Ian Bowles. “The Governor and I are hoping that everyone who loves these properties and facilities as much as we do will lend a hand.”

Among the Park Serve projects are: Clearing trails at Georgetown-Rowley State Forest, clearing the riverbanks at Maudslay State Park in Newburyport, planting flower beds and painting the lifeguard shack at Nantasket Beach in Hull, helping control erosion along trails at Robinson State Park in Agawam, installing a boardwalk at Scusset Beach State Reservation in

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Timothy P. Murray  
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Ian A. Bowles, Secretary, Executive  
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Richard K. Sullivan, Jr., Commissioner  
Department of Conservation & Recreation

Sandwich, and making playground improvements and helping with historic landscape reclamation at Stony Brook Reservation in Boston.

DCR will provide work gloves and equipment needed for the various projects, though participants may want to bring their own gloves or tools, clearly marked with the owner's name and phone number. Power tools are not allowed, however. Wear sturdy shoes and work clothes, and consider bringing sunscreen and insect repellent. Parking fees will be waived at all DCR facilities where Park Serve projects are taking place. Drinking water and a snack will be supplied, though participants should feel free to bring their own food and water as well.

"Everyone has a role to play in preserving and enhancing our forests and parks," said DCR Commissioner Richard K. Sullivan Jr., "so we welcome you to come out to play your role on May 17."

To sign up for Park Serve Day, and to see a list of all the projects with any age restrictions and get directions to the park of your choice, visit [www.parkserveday.org](http://www.parkserveday.org). Park Serve Day is a joint project involving the Governor's office, the Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs, and DCR.

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*The Massachusetts Department of Conservation and Recreation (DCR), an agency of the Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs, oversees 450,000 acres of parks and forests, beaches, bike trails, watersheds, and dams, in addition to 278 bridges and miles of roadways. Led by Commissioner Richard K. Sullivan Jr., the agency's mission is to protect, promote, and enhance our common wealth of natural, cultural, and recreational resources. To learn more about DCR, our facilities, and our programs, please visit [www.mass.gov/dcr](http://www.mass.gov/dcr). Contact us at [mass.parks@state.ma.us](mailto:mass.parks@state.ma.us).*